The growth rate of the capital goods sector does not necessarily follow one to one correspondence with the aggregate growth rate in the industrial sector. The possible reasons for this are that demand for capital goods is lumpy in nature and triggered by improvements in the expectations of businessmen.

Government's Intervention in Tobacco Market

2465. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :
SHRI N.R. DASARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh State Government has urged the Central Government and the STC to intervene in the market to absorb surplus stocks of tobacco lying unsold in view of the glut in tobacco market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has decided that State Trading Corporation of India should commence market intervention operations for tobacco as was done last year, at the Andhra Pradesh tobacco auction platforms.

Clousre of Grasim Industries at Mavoor

2466. SHRI GAYA SINGH :
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware of the closure of the Birla group-owned Grasim Industries at Mavoor in North Kerala employing about 3000 people;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken, if any, by Government to settle the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (c) M/s. Grasim Industries Ltd., at Mavoor, North Kerala of the Birla Group has indicated in its production return in May 1999 that the machinery are under preventive maintenance and

production of 384 MT has been shown. For the period from June 1999 till February 2000 the company has submitted 'nil' production reports. However, in December 1999 it has indicated that the plant is closed due to pollution problem. The Government of Kerala is aware of the closure of the unit and has convened several meetings to settle the problem.

The Government of India has enacted the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and established the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to ensure timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. The rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR include various measures like restructuring the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promotors, merger with the other companies, change of management, provision of working capital and term loans by banks and financial institutions.

Decline in Export of Agricultural Products

†2467. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of export of agricultural products, out of the total exports, has been continuously decreasing since 1996-97 and until now;

(b) if so, the quantum of the said exports during 1996-97;

(c) the estimated quantum of exports to the made during the first nine months of the current year 1999-2000; and

(d) the main reasons for the constant decline in the quantum of exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The country's total exports and total agricultural exports (in terms of value in Rs. crores) including Marine Products, Tea, Coffee, Castor Oil, Cotton including waste and the percentage share of export of total agricultural products to total exports during the last four years is as under :—